

Message Text

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PAGE 01 AMMAN 07364 141626Z
ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 NEA-07 ISO-00 SS-07 NSC-06 AID-01 SSO-00
NSCE-00 /025 W
----- 124625 /44
P 141355Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9894

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FOR ATTENTION CONGRESSIONAL RELATIONS

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OREP (CODEL FLOWERS)
SUBJECT: CODEL FLOWERS

REF: STATE 302218

1. AMBASSADOR PICKERING CURRENTLY OUT OF COUNTRY AND NOT EXPECTED BACK FOR SEVERAL DAYS. EMBASSY PRESUMES BRIEFING MENTIONED REFTEL REFERS TO INFORMAL REMARKS AMBASSADOR MADE TO CODEL WHILE PARTY WAS AWAITING KING HUSSEIN'S ARRIVAL FOR AUDIENCE AT ROYAL PALACE. AT THAT TIME, AMBASSADOR PICKERING COVERED A RANGE OF SUBJECTS AND, TO BEST OF OUR RECOLLECTION, REFERRED TO PALESTINIAN REFUGEE ISSUE IN CONTEXT OF JORDAN'S POSITION VIS-A-VIS THE WEST BANK.

2. JORDAN CONTINUES TO HAVE LARGEST CONCENTRATION OF PALESTINE EXILES OF ANY ARAB STATE -- AROUND 850,000 COMPRISED OF 645,000 REFUGEES WHO ARE HELPED IN DIFFERENT DEGREES BY UNRWA PLUS ABOUT 204,000 "DISPALCED PERSONS" (JORDANIAN CITIZENS WHO FORMERLY LIVED ON WEST BANK AND CAME TO EAST BANK FOLLOWING 1967 WAR) HELPED BY GOJ. IT IS IMPORTANT TO JORDANIAN STABILITY AND MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS THAT UNRWA AND GOJ HAVE RESOURCES TO CONTINUE SUPPORT OF THESE "EXILES" PENDING OVERALL MIDDLE EAST PEACE SETTLEMENT WHICH WOULD DEAL WITH ISSUE OF THEIR FUTURE.

3. JORDAN HAS HISTORIC ASSOCIATION WITH WEST BANK
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PAGE 02 AMMAN 07364 141626Z

AND LARGEST COLLECTION OF PALESTINIAN REFUGEES FROM

THERE OF ANY ARAB STATE. UNTIL 1974, JORDAN WAS
CONSIDERED THE ARAB NEGOTIATING PARTY FOR ISRAELI
WITHDRAWAL FROM OCCUPIED TERRITORIES ON WEST BANK
WHICH HAD BEEN RULED BY JORDAN PRIOR TO THE 1967 WAR.
JORDAN'S PROPOSALS FOR INITIAL 10 KILOMETER PULLBACK
BY ISRAEL ON WEST BANK AS FIRST STEP WAS NOT ACCEPTABLE
TO ISRAELIS, AND AT ARAB SUMMIT MEETING IN RABAT IN
1974, IT WAS DECIDED THAT PLO HAD SOLE RESPONSIBILITY
FOR PALESTINIAN ISSUES SUCH AS OCCUPIED WEST BANK.
AS BOTH AMBASSADOR PICKERING AND KING HUSSEIN STATED
TO CODEL FLOWERS (AMMAN 6846), JORDAN ABIDES BY 1974
RABAT SUMMIT DECISION FOR A VARIETY OF REASONS,
INCLUDING ONE GIVEN BY KING HUSSEIN TO CODEL THAT
PALESTINIANS THEMSELVES MUST BE PART OF THE NEGOTIATING
PROCESS ABOUT WEST BANK IF SETTLEMENT REACHED THERE
IS TO BE ACCEPTED BY THEM.
SUDDARTH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976AMMAN07364
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760460-0441
From: AMMAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761243/aaaabkmm.tel
Line Count: 78
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION H
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 302218
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 JUN 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <12 OCT 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CODEL FLOWERS
TAGS: OREP, (FLOWERS, WALTER)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006